

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "ACANTHEPHYRA" A. MILNE EDWARDS, 1881 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)617)

The present application relates to a generic name *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), which is in general use, but which is not the oldest available name for the genus concerned. The ruthless application of the *Règles* in the present case would give rise to much quite unnecessary confusion, and I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to prevent this confusion by using their plenary powers in such a way as to permit the continued use of the above generic name.

The following are the original references to the generic names dealt with in the present application:—

*Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, *Ann. Sci. nat. (Paris) (Zool.)* (6) **11** (4) : 12 (type species, by original designation: *Acanthephyra armata* A. Milne Edwards, 1881, *Ann. Sci. nat. (Paris) (Zool.)* (6) **11**(4) : 12).

*Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* **1879** : 416 (substitute name for *Ephyra* P. Roux, 1831 (*Mém. Class. Crust. Salic.* : 24) an invalid junior homonym of *Ephyra* Péron & Lesueur, 1810, *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat., Paris* **14**(83) : 354) (type species, by original designation by Kingsley, 1879 (*Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* **1879** : 416) : *Alpheus pelagicus* Risso, 1816, *Hist. nat. Crust. Nice* : 91).

The name *Acanthephyra* at present is in universal use for a large genus of deep-sea shrimps. This genus consists of about 28 species and is distributed throughout the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Several of the species are common and all the larger deep-sea expeditions brought home considerable quantities of specimens belonging to this genus. In the zoological reports of practically all the deep-sea expeditions (e.g., Albatross, Ara, Atlantide, Atlantis, B.A.N.Z. Antarctic, Bermuda Oceanographic, Caudan, Challenger, Discovery, German South Polar, Helga, Ingolf, Investigator, John Murray, Michel Sars, Pawnee, Pickle, Pieter Faure, Plankton, Pola, Princesse Alice, Siboga, Thor, Valdivia, Washington) these shrimps have been described under the generic name *Acanthephyra*. In his revision of the family in which this genus belongs, Chace (1936, *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **26** : 24-31) also used that generic name.

Now *Alpheus pelagicus* Risso, 1816, the type species of the genus *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, proves to belong to the genus *Acanthephyra* (see Holthuis, 1947, *Zool. Meded.*, **27** : 315). Thus *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, is a subjective synonym of *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881. The latter name, being the more recent of the two, according to the Law of Priority, has to be replaced by the former.

The name *Miersia* was proposed by Kingsley to replace the pre-occupied

generic name *Ephyra* P. Roux, 1831. Kingsley placed three species in this genus :—

- (1) *Alpheus pelagicus* Risso, 1816, which was indicated by Kingsley as the type species of *Miersia*,
- (2) *Pandalus punctulatus* Risso, 1826 (*Hist. nat. Europ. mérid.* **5** : 80, fig. 7), a *species incerta*, and
- (3) *Ephyra compressa* De Haan, 1844 (*Fauna japon.*, Crust. (5) : pl. 46 fig. 7), the type species of the genus *Paratya* Miers, 1882 (family ATYIDAE).

As far as I know only three authors besides Kingsley have used the name *Miersia* for *Acantheephyra*. First, S. I. Smith in *Bull. Mus. com. zool.* **10** : 66–73. Two years later Smith (1884, *Rep. U.S. Fish Comm.* **10** : 372) abandoned *Miersia* in favour of *Acantheephyra*. In his 1884 paper Smith stated that he could not find any differences between the two genera, “but as Milne-Edwards probably had access to typical species of *Miersia*, *Acantheephyra* is most likely a distinct genus”. Carus (1885, *Prod. r. Faun. Médit.* **1** : 481) in his rather uncritical compilation of the Mediterranean fauna mentions *Miersia* with two species *M. pelagica* and *M. punctulata*. Bate (1888, *Rep. Voy. Challenger*, *Zool.* **24** : 732, 733) in his large report on the Challenger Macrura, rejected the name *Miersia* on account of the fact that Kingsley, who had placed the genus in the family ATYIDAE, in the diagnosis of this family mentioned characters not present in *Acantheephyra*. Fowler (1912, *Ann. Rep. New Jersey State Mus.* **1911** : 548, 549) in his compilation of the New Jersey Crustacea correctly considered *Miersia* and *Acantheephyra* to be identical and accordingly adopted the former name as being the older.

The name *Miersia* furthermore has been used by some authors for species of the family ATYIDAE, obviously because Kingsley placed the Atyid shrimp *Paratya compressa* (De Haan) in this genus. Ortmann (1894, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* **1894** : 400), who in two previous publications had used the name *Miersia* for species of the genus *Paratya*, identified *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, with *Paratya* Miers, 1882 and *Xiphocaris* Von Martens, 1872, using the latter name for the genus. Ortmann excluded *Alpheus pelagicus* from *Miersia*, placing it in *Acantheephyra*. Holmes (1895, *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* (2) **4** : 577) described a new Atyid under the name *Miersia pacifica*. In 1900 the same author (Holmes, 1900, *Occ. Pap. Calif. Acad. Sci.* **7** : 211) erected a new genus (*Syncaris*) for his species and at the same time remarked that the name *Miersia* could not be used for Atyid shrimps, since its type species was *Alpheus pelagicus*. Finally, Bouvier (1925, *Encycl. entomol.* (A) **4** : 55) cited *Miersia* Kingsley as a synonym of *Paratya* Miers.

We thus see that the generic name *Acantheephyra* is in general use for a genus of deep-sea shrimps; at least 60 authors have used that name and it may be found in practically all reports dealing with the Decapoda Macrura of deep-sea expeditions. On the other hand the name *Miersia*, which is nomenclatorially the correct name for that genus, has been used for it by only four authors, one of whom later abandoned it in favour of *Acantheephyra*, while the publications of the other three authors have been of relatively very little importance for the study of this group. Moreover the name *Miersia* has been used by a number of authors for shrimps belonging to the family ATYIDAE. It is clear therefore that the change of the name *Acantheephyra* to *Miersia* is highly undesirable as it would involve the change of many well-known specific names and thus cause quite unnecessary confusion in carcinological literature. The

concrete proposals which I accordingly submit for consideration are that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its plenary powers :—

(a) to suppress the generic name *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, and

(b) to validate the generic name *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881 ;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by original designation : *Acanthephyra armata* A. Milne Edwards, 1881) as validated in (1)(b) above ;

(3) place the generic names *Miersia* Kingsley, 1879, as suppressed under (1)(a) above, and *Ephyra* Roux, 1831 (junior homonym of *Ephyra* Péron & Lesueur, 1810) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *armata* A. Milne Edwards, 1881 (as published in the binominal combination *Acanthephyra armata*) (trivial name of type species of *Acanthephyra* A. Milne Edwards, 1881).

## SUPPORT FOR MR. W. D. HINCKS' PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE NAME "APHIDIUS" NEES, 1818 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA)

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### (Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)149)

(Letter dated 13th November 1951)

I am writing concerning the Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)149 (1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2, 18-19).

As a worker in the Braconidae with interests also in the applied field I wish to support thoroughly the proposal for conserving *Aphidius* Nees, 1818, for the group of aphid parasites to which this name has consistently been applied for well over a century. It would be unfortunate, especially in view of the large volume of literature that deals with this group of insects, to be compelled to substitute *Incubus* Schrank for *Aphidius* at this late date.